**Amendments to the Claims:** This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-53 cancelled.

54. (Currently Amended) A generally tubular prosthesis for implantation in a human or animal duct to ensure a passageway in said duct, said prosthesis having a tubular surface and a tube axis and being generally axially subdivided into two or more circumferentially oriented hoop-like tubular portions, said prosthesis comprising:

a plurality of discrete structural wires or filaments joined together to form said prosthesis, said wires or filaments each having one or more corrugated portions and at least some of said wires or filaments having one or more generally straightened extension portions,

wherein at least two of said hoop-like tubular portions are axially arranged [generally adjacent] in juxtaposition to one another,

wherein said hoop-like tubular portions are formed from the corrugated portions of two or more of said wires or filaments, and

wherein said straightened extension portions extend between and connect consecutive ones of said hoop-like tubular portions.

55. (Previously Presented) A generally tubular prosthesis for implantation in a human or animal duct to ensure a passageway in said duct, said prosthesis having a tubular surface and a tube axis and being generally axially subdivided into two or more circumferentially oriented hoop-like tubular portions, said prosthesis comprising:

a plurality of discrete structural wires or filaments joined together to form said prosthesis, said wires or filaments each having one or more corrugated portions and at least some of said wires or filaments having one or more generally straightened extension portions,

wherein said hoop-like tubular portions are formed from said corrugated portions of two or more of said wires or filaments,

wherein said straightened extension portions extend between and connect consecutive ones of said hoop-like tubular portions, and

wherein said corrugations comprise zig-zags having V-shaped apices connected by generally straight intermediate portions.

56. (Previously Presented) A generally tubular prosthesis for implantation in a human or animal duct to ensure a passageway in said duct, said prosthesis having a tubular surface and a tube axis and being generally axially subdivided into two or more circumferentially oriented hoop-like tubular portions, said prosthesis comprising:

a plurality of discrete structural wires or filaments joined together to form said prosthesis, said wires or filaments each having one or more corrugated portions and at least some of said wires or filaments having one or more generally straightened extension portions,

wherein said hoop-like tubular portions are formed from said corrugated portions of two or more of said wires or filaments,

wherein said straightened extension portions extend between and connect consecutive ones of said hoop-like tubular portions, and

wherein at least some of said straightened extension portions are oriented skew relative to the tubular axis.

57. (Currently Amended) A generally tubular prosthesis for implantation in a human or animal duct to ensure a passageway in said duct, said prosthesis having a tubular surface and a tube axis and being generally axially subdivided into two or more circumferentially oriented hoop-like tubular portions, said prosthesis comprising:

a plurality of discrete structural wires or filaments joined together to form said prosthesis, said wires or filaments each having one or more corrugated

portions and at least some of said wires or filaments having one or more generally straightened extension portions,

wherein said tubular portions are arranged [generally adjacent] in juxtaposition to each other,

wherein said hoop-like tubular portions are formed from said corrugated portions of two or more of said wires or filaments, and

wherein said straightened extension portions extend between and connect consecutive ones of said hoop-like tubular portions.

58. (Previously Presented) The prosthesis of claim 54, wherein said prosthesis is a forked prosthesis comprising a generally tubular main branch and at least two secondary branches extending from said main branch.

59. (Previously Presented) A generally tubular prosthesis having a tube axis and two or more hoop-like tubular portions, said prosthesis comprising:

one or more wires or filaments each having one or more corrugated portions and one or more generally straightened extension portions,

wherein said corrugated portion comprises zig-zags having V-shaped apices connected by generally straight intermediate portions,

wherein said straightened extension portion extends between and connects consecutive ones of said hoop-like tubular portions, said straightened extension portion being oriented skew relative to said tube axis and extending in a substantially helical path, and

wherein consecutive ones of said hoop-like tubular portions are also connected at a point circumferentially displaced from said extension portion.

60. (Previously Presented) A generally tubular prosthesis for implantation in a human or animal duct to ensure a passageway in said duct, said prosthesis having a tubular surface and a tube axis and being generally axially subdivided into two or more circumferentially oriented hoop-like tubular portions, said prosthesis comprising:

a plurality of wires or filaments wherein each of said wires or filaments has one or more corrugated portions and at least one of said wires or filaments has one or more generally straightened extension portions,

wherein said hoop-like tubular portions are formed from said corrugated portions of two or more of said wires or filaments; and

wherein said straightened extension portions extend in a helical path between and connect consecutive hoop-like tubular portions.

61. (Previously Presented) An endoluminal stent comprising:

a plurality of hoops axially displaced in a tubular configuration along a common axis;

each of said hoops comprising a plurality of sinuous or zig-zag segments having apices in a plane substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the stent; and

adjacent hoops being connected by a connecting segment that extends along a helical path from a sinuous or zig-zag segment of one of said adjacent hoops to a sinuous or zig-zag segment of the other one of said adjacent hoops.